

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on August 04, 2004, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 1-8 were pending. By this paper, Applicants cancel claims 2 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 9-11. Therefore, claims 1, 3-4 and 6-11 are now pending. Support for new claims 9 and 10 may be found, among other places, at originally filed claim 3. Support for new claim 11 may be found, among other places, at the first full paragraph on page 9 of the originally filed application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons that follow.

Specification Objections

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to based on the language of lines 25-26 on the first page of the application referring to Japanese patent applications. In response, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants delete the identified language as seen above, as well as language on page 16, since the claims are fully supported without the identified language referring to Japanese patent applications. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kline (U.S. Patent No. 2,323,780) in view of Greening (U.S. Patent No. 3,087,281). In order to advance prosecution, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the recitations of examined claim 2 (hereby cancelled), a claim indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants further amend claims 7 and 8 in a manner consistent with the amendments to claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable for at least the reason that compelled examined claim 2 to be indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

New Claims

As seen above, Applicants have added new claims 9-11. These claims are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable claims. Entry and allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

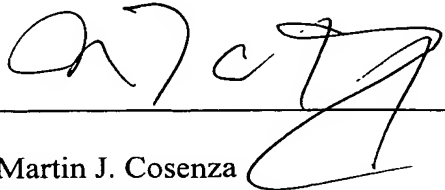
Examiner Rachuba is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Dec 06, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 295-4747
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By


Martin J. Cosenza
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 48,892